

**U.S. Department of Energy**

Richland Operations Office
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JUL 3 1997

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Mr. Phil Dreyer
742 S.E. 39th
Portland, Oregon 97214

Mr. Hamish Patterson
5717 S.E. Holgate
Portland, Oregon 97206

Dear Messrs. Dreyer and Patterson:

FUNDING FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)

This letter is in response to the letters to Mr. John Wagoner from you, same subject as above, dated May 20, 1997, regarding the need to continue funding the CRCIA.

While supportive of the comprehensive impact assessment concept, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has to be concerned about the potential impacts of diverting funds from Hanford Site clean-up activities agreed to in the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). As you may know, the Tri-Party Agreement represents agreements reached by the State of Washington Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and DOE regarding Hanford Site clean-up and waste management activities.

DOE will provide a recommendation regarding CRCIA activities to the Tri-Party Agreement agencies by July 31, 1997. This recommendation will give full consideration to information provided by the CRCIA Team, comments received on the CRCIA Report, and letters such as yours. Allocation of funding resources for the next fiscal year (October 1, 1997, to September 31, 1998) will be based on this recommendation and priorities developed by the Tri-Party Agreement agencies. The deliberation process to develop this recommendation and priorities is underway. Therefore, DOE cannot provide specific information regarding the future funding of the CRCIA until this deliberation process is completed.

DOE would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support of the CRCIA. If you want to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (509) 376-6192.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Stewart, Project Manager
Groundwater Project

GWP:RKS